

We claim:

1. A method for delivering a voice mail message to a recipient, comprising:
receiving said voice mail message from a sender;
5 obtaining a presence status of said sender from a presence server; and
delivering said voice mail message to said recipient with an indication of a
presence of said sender.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said presence server extracts presence
10 information from a plurality of presence data stores.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said presence server translates said presence
information to a standard format.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said presence server determines said presence
status of said sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said recipient responds to said sender in another
domain.
20
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said presence information indicates if the
message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said presence information is obtained from a user
25 registration process.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said presence information is obtained by
observing activities of a user.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender in real time.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender in non-
5 real time.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender using a non-textual form of communication.

10 12. A method for delivering a voice mail message to a recipient, comprising:
receiving said voice mail message from a sender;
obtaining a presence status of said sender; and
providing a mechanism for said recipient to automatically respond to said sender
at a device where said sender is believed to be present.

15

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said providing step allows said recipient to respond to said sender in another domain.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender in real
20 time.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender in non-real time.

25 16. The method of claim 12, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender using a non-textual form of communication.

17. An apparatus for delivering a voice mail message to a recipient, comprising:

a memory; and

at least one processor, coupled to the memory, operative to:

receive said voice mail message from a sender;

obtain a presence status of said sender from a presence server; and

5 deliver said voice mail message to said recipient with an indication of a presence
of said sender.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said presence server extracts presence
information from a plurality of presence data stores.

10 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said presence server translates said presence
information to a standard format.

20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said presence server determines said presence
15 status of said sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.

21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said recipient responds to said sender in
another domain.

20 22. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said presence information indicates if the
message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

23. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender
using a non-textual form of communication.

25 24. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said presence status indicates a presence
status of said sender across a plurality of domains

30